



# CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MARCH 2004 AGENDA

### SUBJECT

California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE): Including, but not limited to, Program Update



Action



Information



Public Hearing

### RECOMMENDATION

The following item is provided to the State Board of Education (SBE) for information and action as deemed necessary and appropriate.

### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

California *Education Code* Section 60850 (Chapter 1, statutes of 1999-2000, Senate Bill 2, O'Connell) authorized the CAHSEE to be developed in accordance with SBE-adopted content standards in English-language arts (ELA) and mathematics. The CAHSEE was developed based on recommendations of the High School Exit Examination Standards Panel, whose members were appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and approved by the SBE.

The CAHSEE was offered for the first time in spring 2001 (March and May) to volunteer 9th graders (class of 2004). In October 2001, Assembly Bill (AB) 1609 (Calderon) was passed and removed the option for 9th graders to take the CAHSEE beginning with the 2002 administration. AB 1609 also provided for an independent study to include the examination of whether the test development process and the implementation of standards-based instruction meet the required standards for a test of this nature, and gave the SBE the authority to delay the date upon which each pupil completing grade 12 would be required to meet the CAHSEE requirement as one condition of receiving a high school diploma.

The CAHSEE was next administered in spring 2002 to all 10th graders who had not passed it during the spring 2001 administration. It was administered several more times to the remaining students in the class of 2004 who had not yet passed one or both parts (i.e., ELA and mathematics). The class of 2005 took the CAHSEE for the first time in the spring of 2003. In July 2003, SBE took action to move the passage of the CAHSEE as a diploma requirement to the Class of 2006. The Class of 2006 will take the CAHSEE for the first time as 10th graders in February 2004.

California *Education Code* Section 60855 required the California Department of Education (CDE) to contract for an independent evaluation of the CAHSEE beginning in January 2000. The evaluation reports must include recommendations to improve the quality, fairness, validity, and reliability of the CAHSEE. Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO) was awarded the contract for this independent evaluation, and delivered its first report to CDE, SBE, the California Legislature, the Governor of

California, and other control agencies on July 1, 2000. Subsequent evaluation reports are due to these same parties by February 1 of every even-numbered year.

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## **SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

Beginning in the 2005-2006 school year, all students must have passed the CAHSEE as one condition of receiving a diploma of graduation or a condition of graduation from high school. Students in the Class of 2006 will take the CAHSEE for the first time as tenth graders during the Census administration on either February 3-4, 2004, or March 16-17, 2004. Adult education students who are expected to graduate after June 2005 are also eligible to take the CAHSEE during one of these administrations.

In February 2004, approximately 220 school districts administered the test to approximately 175,00 students. In March, approximately 450 school districts will administer the test to approximately 335,000 students. Students who are absent during the Census administration will have an opportunity to take the CAHSEE on May 11-12, 2004.

In February 2004, HumRRO issued its *Independent Evaluation of the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE): Second Biennial Report* to the California Legislature. The report was also distributed to the SBE members.

### Release of 2003 Test Questions

Additionally in March 2004, the California Department of Education (CDE) will release 20 mathematics test questions and 20 English-language arts questions from the 2003 CAHSEE. These questions will be combined with the test questions that have already been released in one booklet for a total of 263 test questions available to the public.

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## **FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)**

Costs for the administration of the CAHSEE, the release of test questions, and the development of the biennial report to the Legislature are all part of current CDE contracts. There was a minimal expense for duplicating 50 copies of the biennial report.

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## **ATTACHMENT**

None.